Numb. 126

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Anguillam Caudâ tenes. T. D'Urfey

From *Thurſday January* 26. to *Saturday January* 28. 1709.

From my own Apartment, January 27.

THERE is no Sort of Company ſo agreeable as that of Women who have good Senſe without Affectation, and can converſe with Men without any private Deſign of impoſing Chains and Fetters. *Belvidera*, whom I viſited this Evening, is one of theſe. There is an invincible Prejudice in Favour of all ſhe ſays, from her being a beautiful Woman, becauſe ſhe does not conſider her ſelf as ſuch when ſhe talks to you. This amiable Temper gives a certain Tincture to all her Diſcourſe, and made it very agreeable to me, till we were interrupted by *Lydia*, a Creature who has all the Charms that can adorn a Woman. Her Attractions would indeed be irreſiſtible, but that that ſhe thinks them ſo, and is always employing them in Stratagems and Conqueſts. When I turned my Eye upon her as ſhe ſat down, I ſaw ſhe was a Perſon of that Character, which, for the further Information of my Country Correſpondents, I had long wanted an Opportunity of explaining. *Lydia* is a finiſhed *Coquet*, which is a Sect among Women of all others the moſt miſchievous, and makes the greateſt Havock and Diſorder in Society. I went on in the Diſcourſe I was in with *Belvidera*, without ſhowing that I had obſerved any Thing extraordinary in *Lydia*: Upon which, I immediately ſaw her look me over as ſome very ill-bred Fellow; and caſting a ſcornful Glance on my Dreſs, give a Shrug at *Belvidera*. But as much as ſhe deſpiſed me, ſhe wanted my Admiration, and made Twenty Offers to bring my Eyes her Way: But I reduced her to a Reſtleſneſs in her Seat, an impertinent playing of her Fan, and many other Motions and Geſtures, before I took the leaſt Notice of her. At laſt I looked at her with a kind of Surprize, as if ſhe had before been unobſerved by reaſon of an ill Light where ſhe ſat. It is not to be expreſſed what a ſudden Joy I ſaw riſe in her Countenance, even at the Approbation of ſuch a very old Fellow: But ſhe did not long enjoy her Triumphs without a Rival; for there immediately entred *Caſtabella*, a Lady of a quite contrary Character, that is to ſay, as eminent a *Prude* as *Lydia* is a *Coquet*. *Belvidera* gave me a Glance, which methought intimated, that they were both Curioſities in their Kind, and worth remarking. As ſoon as we were again ſeated, I ſtole Looks at each Lady, as if I was comparing their Perfections. *Belvidera* obſerved it, and began to lead me into a Diſcourſe of them both to their Faces, which is to be done eaſily enough; for one Woman is generally ſo intent upon the Faults of another, that ſhe has not Reflection enough to obſerve when her own are repreſented. I have taken Notice, Mr. *Bickerſtaff* (ſaid *Belvidera*) that you have in ſome Parts of your Writings drawn Characters of our Sex, in which you have not, to my Apprehenſion, been clear enough and diſtinct, particularly in thoſe of a *Prude* and a *Coquet*. Upon the Mention of this, *Lydia* was rouzed with the Expectation of ſeeing *Caſtabella*'s Picture, and *Caſtabella* with the Hopes of that of *Lydia*. Madam (ſaid I to *Belvidera*) when we conſider Nature, we ſhall often find very contrary Effects flow from the ſame Cauſe. The *Prude* and *Coquet* (as different as they appear in their Behaviour) are in Reality the ſame Kind of Women: The Motive of Action in both is the Affectation of pleaſing Men. They are Siſters of the ſame Blood and Conſtitution, only one chuſes a grave, the other a light, Dreſs. The *Prude* appears more virtuous, the *Coquet* more vicious, than ſhe really is. The diſtant Behaviour of the *Prude*, tends to the ſame Purpoſe as the Advances of the *Coquet*; and you have as little Reaſon to fall into Deſpair from the Severity of the one, as to conceive Hope from the Familiarity of the latter. What leads you into a clear Senſe of their Character is, That you may obſerve each of them has the Diſtinction of Sex in all her Thoughts, Words and Actions. You can never mention any Aſſembly you were lately in, but one aſks you with a rigid, the other with a ſprightly Air, Pray, what Men were there? As for *Prudes*, it muſt be confeſſed, that there are ſeveral of them, who, like Hypocrites, by long Practice of a falſe Part, become ſincere; or at leaſt delude themſelves into a Beleif that they are ſo.

For the Benefit of this Society of Ladies, I ſhall propoſe one Rule to them as a Teſt of their Virtue. I find in a very celebrated modern Author, That the great Foundreſs of the Pietiſts, *Madam de Bourignon*, who was no leſs famous for the Sanctity of her Life than the Singularity of ſome of her Opinions, was uſed to boaſt, That ſhe had not only the Spirit of Continency in her ſelf, but that ſhe had alſo the Power of communicating it to all who beheld her. This the Scoffers of thoſe Days called, The Gift of Infrigidation, and took Occaſion from it to rally her Face, rather than admire her Virtue. I would therefore adviſe the *Prude*, who has a Mind to know the Integrity of her own Heart, to lay her Hand ſeriouſly upon it, and to examine her ſelf, whether ſhe could ſincerely rejoice in ſuch a Gift of conveying chaſt Thoughts to all her Male Beholders. If ſhe has any Averſion to the Power of inſpiring ſo great a Virtue, whatever Notion ſhe may have of her Perfection, ſhe deceives her own Heart, and is ſtill in the State of *Prudery*. Some perhaps will look upon the Boaſt of *Madam de Bourignon* as the utmoſt Oſtentation of a *Prude*.

I

If you would ſee the Humour of a *Coquet* puſhed to the laſt Exceſs, you may find an Inſtance of it in the following Story, which I will ſet down at length, becauſe it pleaſed me when I read it, tho' I cannot recollect in what Author.

A young *Coquet* Widow in *France*, having been long followed by a *Gaſcon* of Quality, who had boaſted among his Companions of ſome Favours which he had never received, to be revenged of him, ſent for him one Evening, and told him, It was in his Power to do her a very particular Service. The *Gaſcon*, with much Profeſſion of his Readineſs to obey her Commands, begged to hear in what Manners ſhe deſigned to imploy him. You know (ſaid the Widow) my Freind *Belinda*, and muſt often have heard of the Jealouſy of that impotent Wretch her Husband. Now it is abſolutely neceſſary, for the carrying on a certain Affair, That his Wife and I ſhould be together a whole Night. What I have to ask of you, is, to dreſs your ſelf in her Night Cloaths, and lie by him a whole Night in her Place, that he may not miſs her while ſhe is with me. The *Gaſcon* (tho' of a very lively and undertaking Complexion) began to ſtartle at the Propoſal. Nay, ſays the Widow, if you have not the Courage to go through what I ask of you, I muſt imploy ſome Body elſe that will. Madam, (ſays the *Gaſcon*) I'll kill him for you if you pleaſe; but as for lying with him!— How is it poſſible to do it without being diſcovered? If you do not diſcover your ſelf, (ſays the Widow) you will lie ſafe enough, for he is paſt all Curioſity. He comes in at Night while ſhe is aſleep, and goes out in a Morning before ſhe awakes, and is in Pain for nothing, ſo he knows ſhe is there. Madam (replied the *Gaſcon*) How can you reward me for paſſing a Night with this old Fellow? The Widow anſwered with a Laugh, Perhaps by admitting you to paſs a Night with one whom you think more agreeable. He took the Hint, put on his Night-Clothes, and had not been a-bed above an Hour before he heard a Knocking at the Door, and the Treading of one who approach'd the other Side of the Bed, and who he did not queſtion was the good Man of the Houſe. I do not know, whether the Story would be better by telling you in this Place, or at the End of it, That the Perſon who went to Bed to him, was our young *Coquet* Widow. The *Gaſcon* was in a terrible Fright every Time ſhe moved in the Bed, or turned towards him, and did not fail to ſhrink from her till he had conveyed himſelf to the very Ridge of the Bed. I will not dwell upon the Perplexity he was in the whole Night, which was augmented, when he obſerved that it was now broad Day, and that the Husband did not yet offer to get up and go about his Buſineſs. All that the *Gaſcon* had for it, was to keep his Face turned from him, and to feign himſelf aſleep, when, to his utter Confuſion, the Widow at laſt puts out her Arm, and puſhs the Bell at her Bed's Head. In came her Friend, and Two or Three Companions to whom the *Gaſcon* had boaſted of her Favours. The Widow jumped into a Wrapping-Gown, and joined with the reſt in laughing at this Man of Intrigue.

Advertiſements.

*** Propoſals for Printing the Lucubrations of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; by Subſcriptions, are to be ſeen, and Subſcriptions taken, by Charles Lillie, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew near Stationers-Hall.

MEn's *Morning Gowns, of rich Silks, Stuffs, Calicoes, &c. (being the Goods of a Perſon that failed) to be diſpoſed of at very low Rates; may be ſeen at the Olive-Tree and Still within three Doors of Young Man's Coffee-houſe, againſt the Herſe at Charing-Croſs. The Prices being ſet on each Gown. Catalogues of the Particulars may be had at the Place of Sale.*

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Juſt publiſh'd,

*** Ανακρεοντος Θιυ Μελη. Anacreontis Teii Carmina. Plurimis quibus hactenus ſcatebant Mendis purgavit, turbata Metra reſtituit, Notaſque cum nova Interpretatione adjecit Willielmus Baxter. Subjiciuntur etiam duo veruſtiſſimæ Poetriæ Sapphus elegantiſſima Odaria, cum novo Commentario; item Theocriti Anacreonticum in mortuum Adonin. Editio altera, aliquanto emaculatior & elucubratior: Qua commendatur etiam Barneſii Cantabrigienſis Profeſſoris Lepidum & Bellum Ingenium, & Acumen Criticum. Cædimus, inque vicem prælemus Crura Sagittis. Vivitur hoc Pacto.— Londinii Auguſtæ Imprimebatur Impenſis Matthæi Hawkins, proſtatque venalis ad Angelum in Area Paulina.

New Muſick juſt publiſhed,

*** The Monthly Mask of Vocal Muſick, or the new eſt Songs made for the Theatres, and other Occaſions, for January. Price 6 d. A Collection of new Minuets, Rigadoons, and Paſpies, being 52 in Number, with Baſſes to each of them compoſed by Mr. William Hills. A Book of new Airs, conſiſting of Firſt and Second Trebles for two Violins. Likewiſe Six new Solo's for a Flute and a Baſs. Both compoſed by Mr. Pepuſch. Printed for J. Walſh, Servant in Ordinary to Her Majeſty, and P. Randall, at the Harp and Hautboy, in Catherine-ſtreet near Somerſet-Houſe in the Strand, and J. Hare at the Viol and Flute in Cornhil near the Royal Exchange.

On the 6th of February will be publiſh'd at 6 d. each,

*** Bibliotheca Wichiana: Being a Catalogue of the Library of the late Hon. Sir Cyril Wich, conſiſting of the moſt valuable Authors, in Philoſophical, Philological, Hiſtorical, Geographical, Claſſical, and Critical Learning. Lexicographers, Mediliſts, Books of Antiquity, Sculpture and Paintings, in moſt Languages, and of the beſt Editions. Printed from his Original MSS. and regularly digeſted under proper Heads, which will be ſold by Auction in the inner lower Walk of Exeter-Exchange in the Strand, by Richard Smith, and Edmund Curll at the Dial and Bible againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet, where may be had, Mr. Hoadly's Defence of the Foundation of the preſent Government. Price 1 s. 6 d. bound.

*** The Statutes at large, in Three Volumes; Wingate and Waſhington's Abridgments, with a Supplement to them; Mr. Clutterbuck's Plain and Rational Vindication and Explanation of the Liturgy; Dr. Gibſon on the Sacrament, at 1 l. 5 s. per Hundred; Winchester Manual; Bibles and Common Prayers of all Sorts, ruled or unruled; a fine Set of Cuts for the Common Prayer, engraved by Mr. Sturt; Dr. Nicolls's Paraphraſe on the Common Prayer; the New Welch Common Prayer and Pſalms, with or without Cuts; and Tate and Brady's Pſalms, with the New Supplement; Biſhop Beveridge's Catechiſm; Dr. Williams's Catechiſm; are ſold by R. Whitledge, at the Bible and Ball in Ave-Mary-lane near Ludgate, at the loweſt Prices.

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FOr making expeditiouſly the blackeſt and moſt laſting Writing Ink; being a Tincture from Minerals, Marcaſites, with other ponderous Ingredients, far exceeding (for this Purpoſe) any diſſolving Powder whatever. Each Sixpenny Paper contains three Ounces, ſealed up with Directions: Eight Papers make a Gallon; Four more, with the former Sediment, will make another Gallon as good as the firſt; and thus in Proportion for a greater or leſs Quantity is much cheaper than hitherto known. It is alſo fit for Carriage by Sea and Land, as now prepared in Powder by Auſtin Oldiſworth, Stationer, at the Golden Ball in Cannon-ſtreet. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall, and the Stationers, Bookſellers and Haberdaſhers, in London, and other Cities and chief Towns in Great Britain and Ireland.

WE whoſe Names are hereunto ſubſcribed, do certifie, That on the Sixth Day of this inſtant January, 1709-30 Perſons, Men, Women, and Children, did acknowledge at the Croſs Keys Tavern in Corn-hil, That being all blind or diſtempered in their Eyes, they were reſtored to Sight, or received ſatisfactory Benefit (of which Number one was born blind) by Mr. Roger Grant, Oculiſt. Atteſted by Geo. Ley, A. M. James Halſey, Gent. Charles Williams, Gent. Richard Marrriot, Gent. William Webb, Gent. Abraham Harman, Surgeon. Any Perſon may be ſatisfied of the Truth of this Certificate, at the Doctor's Lodgings in St. Chriſtopher's Court Threadneedle-ſtreet, or at Mr. Halſey's in Barbican.

RIght Turkey Coffee 6 s. 2 d. with Allowance to them that buy Quantities. The beſt of Chocolate all Nuts 4 d. with Sugar, 2 s. 2 d. all Sorts of Green Tea, the loweſt at 12 s. Incomparable Bohee at 24 s. Fine Bohee, at 20 s. 16 s. and 12 s. Any Perſon is free to taſt of any Tea that wants a Quantity. The fineſt of Loaf Sugar. Sold at a very low Price to them that buy Tea of Robert Tate, at the Star in Bedford-Court near Bedford-ſtreet Covent-Garden.